IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 12, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, and 36, and add new Claims 45-50, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a request from a first communication apparatus connected through a communication network to a remote second communication apparatus, the method being implemented in the second apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the request, wherein the request is for obtaining digital data of a compressed digital signal that comprises header data and a signal body comprising data packets;

processing the request including determining a position, in the body of the signal, of at least one data packet corresponding to the request as a function of the length of the header data and of at least one pointer marker present in the header data of the signal, the at least one pointer marker providing information for calculating the length of the part of the body preceding the data packet under consideration; and

forming, prior to the processing, the at least one pointer marker in the signal when at least one point marker providing information for calculating the length of the part of the signal body is not present in the header ~~such a marker is not present in the signal~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said determining of the length of the part of the body of the signal preceding the data packet

under consideration comprises a preliminary step of determining the order of appearance of the data packet in the body of the signal, according to parameters relating to structure and organization of the data in the signal.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the compressed digital signal is partitioned into a number n of independently compressed regions $t_i = 1$ to n and $n \geq 1$, the body of the signal comprising, for each region, region header data and a region body containing data packets of the region under consideration.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the length of the part of the body of the signal preceding the data packet under consideration is determined from:

at least one pointer marker PLT providing information for calculating the length of the data packet or packets preceding the data packet under consideration in the region where this packet is located,

the length of the header data of the region where the packet under consideration is located and, when one or more regions precede the region where the packet under consideration is located,

at least one pointer marker TLM providing information for calculating the length of the preceding region or regions.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 4, wherein a pointer marker TLM providing information for calculating the length of each region t_i is present in the header data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 4, wherein a pointer marker PLT providing information for calculating the length of the data packets in a region t_i is present in the header data of the region concerned.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of extracting and transmitting to the first communication apparatus the at least one data packet having a position that has been determined.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request for obtaining digital data specifies at least one data packet of the signal.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request for obtaining digital data specifies part of the signal.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein, subsequent to the request being received, the method comprises a step of identifying the data packet or packets necessary for the reconstruction of the part of the signal specified.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of processing compressed digital data received by a first communication apparatus connected through a communication network to a remote second communication apparatus, the method being implemented in the first communication apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving ~~at least one data packet from~~ only a portion of a compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus and comprising a body that comprises data packets, the received portion comprising at least one data packet;

determining a position at which the at least one data packet of the received portion is to be inserted into the body of a compressed digital signal derived from the compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus and which is capable of containing all or part of the body of this compressed digital signal, the derived signal also comprising header data, the position being determined as a function of the length of the header data and of at least one pointer marker previously received and inserted into the header data of the derived signal by the first apparatus, the at least one pointer marker providing information for calculating the length of the part of the body preceding the at least one data packet of the received portion; and

inserting into the body of the derived signal the at least one data packet of the received portion at the determined position.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the preliminary steps of:

receiving the header data from the original compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus, the received header data comprising at least one pointer

marker TLM providing information for calculating the length of the body of the original signal; and

forming, from the received header data, the derived compressed digital signal which thus comprises, as header data, the received header data and a signal body of length equal to that of the body of the original signal, the body of the derived signal representing a space initially filled with arbitrary data and which is intended to contain the data packet or packets received from the second apparatus.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the compressed digital signal is partitioned into a number n of independently compressed regions t_i, i = 1 to n and $n \geq 1$, the body of the signal comprising, for each region, region header data and a region body containing data packets of the region under consideration.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the length of the part of the body of the signal preceding the data packet under consideration is determined from:

at least one pointer marker PLT providing information for calculating the length of the data packet or packets preceding the data packet under consideration in the region where this packet is located,

the length of the header data of the region where the packet under consideration is located, and,

when one or more regions precede the region where the packet under consideration is located, at least one pointer marker TLM providing information for calculating the length of the preceding region or regions.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 15, wherein a pointer marker providing information for calculating the length of each region t is present in the header data.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 15, wherein a pointer marker providing information for calculating the length of the data packets in a region t_i is present in the header data of the region concerned.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

receiving region header data;

determining a position at which the received region header data is to be inserted into the body of the derived signal, the position being determined according to the length of the header data of the derived signal and, when one or more regions precede the region header data concerned, according to one or more pointer markers TLM received previously and providing respectively the length of the preceding region or regions; and

inserting the received region header data at the determined position.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the determination of the length of the part of the body of the derived signal preceding the data packet under consideration comprises a preliminary step of determining the order of appearance of the data packet in the body of the signal according to parameters relating to structure and organization of the data in the signal.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 13, further comprising a phase of converting the derived signal into a valid signal comprising:

extracting from the derived signal the header data and data packets received;

forming the header data of the valid signal from the header data extracted from the derived signal;

concatenating the data packets extracted from the derived signal in the body of the valid signal; and

when one or more data packets present in the body of the original signal are not received by the first apparatus, concatenating respectively one or more empty packets in the body of the valid signal in the same order of appearance as that adopted in the derived signal.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

going through the data contained in the body of the derived signal;

converting, when the data gone through does not correspond to a data packet received from the second apparatus, the space filled by the data concerned into an empty packet; and

shifting in an adapted manner the data comprising the remainder of the body of the derived signal.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the data received by the first apparatus comprises the reply to a request previously transmitted from the first apparatus to the second apparatus.

23. (Currently Amended) A device for processing a request coming from a first communication apparatus connected through a communication network to a remote second communication apparatus, the device being implemented in the second apparatus, the device comprising:

means [[of]] <u>for</u> receiving the request, wherein the request is for obtaining digital data of a compressed digital signal that comprises header data and a signal body comprising data packets;

means [[of]] <u>for</u> processing the request including means [[of]] <u>for</u> determining a position, in the body of the signal, of at least one data packet corresponding to the request as a function of the length of the header data and of at least one pointer marker present in the header data of the signal, the at least one pointer marker providing information for calculating the length of the part of the body preceding the data packet under consideration; and

means for forming, prior to the processing, the at least one pointer marker in the signal, when at least one point marker providing information for calculating the length of the part of the signal body is not present in the header ~~such a marker is not present in the signal~~.

24. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 23, wherein said means [[of]] for determining the length of the part of the body of the signal preceding the data packet under consideration comprise means [[of]] for determining the order of appearance of the data packet in the body of the signal according to parameters relating to structure and organization of the data in the signal.

25. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 23, wherein the compressed digital signal is partitioned into a number n of independently compressed regions t_i, i = 1 to n and $n \geq 1$, the body of the signal comprising, for each region, region header data and a region body containing data packets of the region under consideration.

26. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 25, wherein the length of the part of the body of the signal preceding the data packet under consideration is determined from:

at least one pointer marker PLT providing information for calculating the length of the data packet or packets preceding the data packet under consideration in the region where this packet is located,

the length of the header data of the region where the packet under consideration is located,

and, when one or more regions precede the region where the packet under consideration is located, at least one pointer marker TLM providing information for calculating the length of the preceding region or regions.

27. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 23, further comprising means [[of]] for extracting and transmitting to the first communication apparatus the at least one data packet having a position that has been determined.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A device for processing compressed digital data received by a first communication apparatus connected through a communication network to a remote second communication apparatus, the device being implemented in the first communication apparatus, the device comprising:

means [[of]] for receiving ~~at least one data packet from~~ only a portion of a compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus and comprising a body that comprises data packets, the received portion comprising at least one data packet;

means [[of]] for determining a position at which the at least one data packet of the received portion is to be inserted into the body of a compressed digital signal derived from the compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus and which is capable of containing all or part of the body of this compressed digital signal, the derived

signal also comprising header data, the position being determined as a function of the length of the header data and of at least one pointer marker previously received and inserted into the header data of the derived signal by the first apparatus, the at least one pointer marker providing information for calculating the length of the part of the body preceding the at least one data packet of the received portion; and

means [[of]] for inserting, into the body of the derived signal, the at least one data packet of the received portion at the determined position.

30. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 29, further comprising:

means [[of]] for receiving the header data from the original compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus, the received header data comprising at least one pointer marker TLM providing information for calculating the length of the body of the original signal; and

means [[of]] for forming the derived compressed digital signal from the received header data and which thus comprises, as header data, the received header data and a signal body of length equal to that of the body of the original signal, the body of the derived signal representing a space initially filled with arbitrary data and which is intended to contain the data packet or packets received from the second apparatus.

31. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 29, wherein the compressed digital signal is partitioned into a number n of independently compressed

regions t_i, i = 1 to n and n ≥ 1, the body of the signal comprising, for each region, region header data and a region body containing data packets of the region under consideration.

32. (Previously Presented) The device according to Claim 31, wherein the length of the part of the body of the signal preceding the data packet under consideration is determined from:

at least one pointer marker PLT providing information for calculating the length of the data packet or packets preceding the data packet under consideration in the region where this packet is located,

the length of the header data of the region where the packet under consideration is located, and,

when one or more regions precede the region where the packet under consideration is located, at least one pointer marker TLM providing information for calculating the length of the preceding region or regions.

33. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 31, further comprising:

means [[of]] <u>for</u> receiving region header data;

means [[of]] <u>for</u> determining a position at which the received region header data is to be inserted into the body of the derived signal, the position being determined according to the length of the header data of the derived signal and, when one or more regions precede the region header data concerned, also according to one or more pointer

markers TLM received previously and providing respectively the length of the preceding region or regions; and

means [[of]] for inserting the received region header data at the determined position.

34. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 29, wherein said means [[of]] for determining the length of the part of the body of the derived signal preceding the data packet under consideration comprises means [[of]] for determining the order of appearance of the data packet in the body of the signal according to parameters relating to structure and organization of the data in the signal.

35. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 30, further comprising means [[of]] for converting the derived signal into a valid signal which comprises:

means [[of]] for extracting from the derived signal header data and data packets received;

means [[of]] for forming the header data of the valid signal from the header data extracted from the derived signal; and

means [[of]] for concatenating the data packets extracted from the derived signal in the body of the valid signal and, when one or more data packets present in the body of the original signal are not received by the first apparatus, concatenating respectively one or more empty packets in the body of the valid signal in the same order of appearance as that adopted in the derived signal.

36. (Currently Amended) The device according to Claim 30, further comprising:

means [[of]] for going through the data contained in the body of the derived signal;

means [[of]] for converting, when the data gone through does not correspond to a data packet received from the second apparatus, the space filled by the data concerned into an empty packet; and

means [[of]] for shifting in an adapted manner the data comprising the remainder of the body of the derived signal.

37. and 38. (Canceled)

39. (Original) An information storage means readable by a computer or a microprocessor comprising code instructions of a computer program for executing the steps of the method of processing a request according to Claim 1.

40. (Original) An information storage means readable by a computer or a microprocessor comprising code instructions of a computer program for executing the steps of the method of processing data according to Claim 12.

41. and 42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) A computer program stored in a computer-readable medium for loading into a programmable apparatus, comprising sequences of instructions or portions of software code for implementing the steps of the method of processing a request according to Claim 1, when the computer program is loaded and executed by the programmable apparatus.

44. (Previously Presented) A computer program stored in a computer-readable medium for loading into a programmable apparatus, comprising sequences of instructions or portions of software code for implementing the steps of the method of processing data according to Claim 12, when the computer program is loaded and executed by the programmable apparatus.

45. (New) The method according to Claim 12, further comprising a preliminary step of forming the derived compressed digital signal which thus comprises the header data and a signal body of length equal to that of the body of the original signal, the body of the derived signal representing a space initially filled with arbitrary data and which is intended to contain the at least one data packet of the portion received from the second apparatus.

46. (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the insertion into the body of the derived signal of the at least one data packet leads to overwriting part of the space initially filled with arbitrary data.

47. (New) The method according to Claim 13, wherein the insertion into the body of the derived signal of the at least one data packet leads to overwriting part of the space initially filled with arbitrary data.

48. (New) The device according to Claim 29, further comprising means for forming the derived compressed digital signal which thus comprises the header data and a signal body of length equal to that of the body of the original signal, the body of the derived signal representing a space initially filled with arbitrary data and which is intended to contain the at least one data packet of the portion received from the second apparatus.

49. (New) The device according to claim 48, wherein the means for inserting into the body of the derived signal of the at least one data packet leads to overwriting part of the space initially filled with arbitrary data.

50. (New) The device according to Claim 30, wherein the means for inserting into the body of the derived signal of the at least one data packet leads to overwriting part of the space initially filled with arbitrary data.